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It is much to be desired. It is to be hoped that such uniformity founded in a wise and just discrimination between what is injurious and what is useful and necessary in business operations may be obtained and that means may be found for the Congress within the limitations of its constitutional powers to accomplish an effective code of legislation as to make a complete system of laws throughout the United States adequate to compel a general observance of the statutory rules to which I have referred.

The whole question is so important and far-reaching that I am sure no part of it will be lightly considered, but every phase of it will have the studied deliberation of the Congress, resulting in wise and judicious action.

Foreign Relations.
A review of our relations with foreign states is presented with such commendation as to demand appropriate comment.

The long-pending boundary dispute between the Argentine Republic and Chile was settled in March last by the award of an arbitral commission, on which the United States minister at Buenos Ayres served as umpire.

Progress has been made toward the conclusion of a convention of extradition from the Argentine Republic. Having been adopted by the United States Senate and ratified by Argentina, it only awaits the adjustment of some slight changes in the text before exchange.

In my last Annual Message I adverted to the claim of the Austro-Hungarian Government for indemnity for the killing of certain Austrian and Hungarian subjects by the authorities of the State of Pennsylvania, at Eastport, while suppressing an insurrection of miners, September 10, 1897, in view of the verdict of acquittal rendered by the court before which the sheriff and his deputies were tried for murder, and following the established doctrine that the Government may not be held accountable for injuries suffered by individuals at the hands of the public authorities while acting in the line of duty in suppressing disturbances of the public peace.

This Government, adhering to the principle of the claim, admitted by the Austro-Hungarian Government, was constrained to decide liability to indemnify the sufferers.

It is gratifying to be able to announce that the Belgian Government has mitigated the restrictions on the importation of cattle from the United States, to which I referred in my last Annual Message.

Having been invited by Belgium to participate in a congress, held at Brussels, in view of the necessity of a canal which would link the two great oceans, to which I again invite your consideration. The reasons then presented for early action are even stronger now.

A pleasing incident in the relations of this Government with that of Chile occurred in the generous assistance given to the war vessel, the *Albatross*, in distress in Chilean waters. Not alone did the Chilean authorities, in the friendly disposition of Chile found expression. That country has acceded to the convention for the establishment of the Bureau of the American Republics, in which organization every independent State of the continent now shares.

The exchange of ratifications of a convention for the revival of the United States and Chilean claims and for the adjudication of claims in respect to the seaboard, a guard of marines was landed from the Boston and stationed during the last winter in the legation compound at Peking. With the restoration of order this protection was withdrawn.

The interests of our citizens in that vast Empire have not been neglected during the past year. Adequate protection has been secured for our missionaries and settlers, and injuries to their property have been redressed.

American capital has sought and found various opportunities of competing to carry out the internal improvements which the Imperial Government is wisely encouraging, and to develop the natural resources of the Empire. Our trade with China has continued to grow, and our commercial rights under adverse treaties have been everywhere maintained during the past year, as they will be in the future.

The extension of the area open to international foreign settlement at Shanghai and the opening of the ports of Ningbo, Tsing-tao (Kiao chao), and Tientsin to foreign trade and settlement will doubtless afford American enterprise additional facilities and new fields, of which it will not be slow to take advantage.

In my Message of December 5, 1898, I urged that the recommendation of the House of Representatives by the Secretary of the Treasury on the 14th of June, 1898, for an appropriation for a commission to study the commercial and industrial conditions in the Chinese Empire and report as to the opportunities for, and obstacles to, the development of markets in China for the raw products and manufactures of the United States, should receive prompt consideration, which its importance and timeliness merited, but the Congress failed to take action.

I now renew this recommendation, as the importance of the subject has steadily grown since it was first submitted to you, and no time should be lost in studying for ourselves the resources of this great field for American trade and enterprise.

Paris Exposition.
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ment retaining power a second payment of these dues was demanded. Controversy arose touching the validity of the original payment of the debt to the de facto agent of the territory. An arrangement was effected in April last by the United States minister and the foreign secretary of Nicaragua whereby the amounts of the duplicate payments were deposited with the British consul pending an adjustment of the matter by direct agreement between the Governments of the United States and Nicaragua. The controversy is still unsettled.

The Nicaragua Canal.
The contract of the Maritime Canal Company of Nicaragua was declared forfeited by the Nicaraguan Government on the 10th of October, on the ground of nonfulfillment within the ten years' term stipulated in the contract. The Maritime Canal Company has lodged a protest against this action, alleging rights in the premises which appear worthy of consideration. This Government expects that Nicaragua will afford the protestants a full and fair hearing upon the merits of the case.

The Nicaragua Canal Commission, which has been engaged upon the work of examining the route for a ship canal route across Nicaragua, having completed its labors and made its report, was dissolved on May 31, and on June 10 a new commission, known as the Isthmian Canal Commission, was organized under the terms of the act approved March 3, 1899, for the purpose of examining the American Isthmus with a view to determining the most practicable and feasible route for a ship canal across the Isthmus, with its probable cost, and other essential details.

This Commission, under the presidency of Rear-Admiral John G. Walker, U. S. N., retired, entered promptly upon the work entrusted to it, and is now carrying on examinations in Nicaragua along the route of the Panama Canal, and in Darien from the Atlantic, in the neighborhood of the Atrato River, to the Bay of Panama, on the Pacific Ocean. Good progress has been made, but under the circumstances a complete investigation is called for, which will require much labor and considerable time for its accomplishment. The work will be prosecuted as expeditiously as possible and a report made at the earliest practicable date.

The great importance of this work can not be too often or too strongly pressed upon the attention of the Congress. In my Message of December 5, 1898, I expressed my views of the necessity of a canal which would link the two great oceans, to which I again invite your consideration. The reasons then presented for early action are even stronger now.

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I am informed by our Commissioner-General that we shall have in the American exhibit at Paris a number of exhibitors, from every State in our country, a number ten times as great as those which were represented at Vienna in 1873, six times as many as those in Paris in 1878, and four times as many as those who exhibited in Paris in 1889. This statement does not include the exhibits from either Cuba, Porto Rico, or Hawaii, for which arrangements have been made.

One of the most important international congresses on special topics affecting public interests are proposed to be held in Paris next summer in connection with the Exposition. Effort will be made to have the several technical branches of our administration efficiently represented at those conferences, each in its special line, and to procure the largest possible concourse of State representatives, particularly at the Congresses of Public Charity and of Medicine.

Cordial Relations With Germany.

Our relations with Germany continue to be most cordial, notwithstanding the intimacy of direct association has been marked during the year by the granting permission in April for the landing on our shores of a cable from Borkum Emden, on the North Sea, by way of the Azores, and also by the conclusion on September 24 of a Parcel Post Convention with the German Empire. In all that promises closer relations of industry and commerce and a better understanding between the two nations, having so many traits in common, Germany can be assured of the most cordial co-operation of this Government and people. We may be rivals in many material paths, but our rivalry should be generous and open, ever aiming toward the attainment of larger results and the mutually beneficial advancement of each in the line of its especial adaptability.

The several governments of the Empire seem reluctant to admit the natural extension of our food productions and to accept the evidence we constantly tender of the care with which their purity is guarded by rigid inspection from the farm, through the slaughter-house and the packing establishments, to the port of shipment. Our system of control over exported food staples has examinations from any quarter and challenges respect by its efficient thoroughness.

It is to be hoped that in time the two Governments will act in common accord toward the realization of their common purpose to safeguard the public health and to insure the purity and wholesomeness of all food products imported by either country from the other. Were the Congress to authorize an invitation to Germany, in connection with the present reciprocity negotiations for the establishment of a joint commission of scientific experts and practical men of affairs to conduct a searching investigation of food production and exportation in both countries and report to their respective legislatures for the adoption of such remedial measures as they might recommend for either, the way might be opened for the desirable result indicated.

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I am also glad to announce that the German insurance companies have been readmitted by the superintendent of insurance to do business in the State of New York.

Subsequent to the exchange of our peace treaty with Spain, Germany secured the Caroline Islands by purchase, paying for \$5,000,000. Assurances have been received from the German Government that the rights of American missionaries and traders there will be considerably observed.

The Alaskan Boundary.
In my last Annual Message I referred to the pending negotiations with Great Britain in respect to the Dominion of Canada. By means of an executive agreement a Joint High Commission had been created for the purpose of settling the unsettled questions between the United States and Canada, embracing twelve subjects, of which were the questions of the fur seals, the fisheries of the coast and contiguous inland waters, the Alaskan boundary, the transit of merchandise in bond, the alien labor laws, mining rights, reciprocity in trade, revision of the agreement respecting naval vessels in the Great Lakes, a more complete marking of the boundary, provision for the conveyance of criminals, and for wrecking and salvage.

Much progress had been made by the Commission toward the adjustment of many of these questions, when it became apparent that an irreconcilable difference of views was entertained respecting the delimitation of the Alaskan boundary. In view of an agreement as to the meaning of the word "boundary" in the treaty of 1825 between Russia and Great Britain, the United States and Canada, the American commissioners proposed that the subject of the boundary be laid aside and that the remaining questions of difference be proceeded with, some of which were so far advanced as to assure the probability of a settlement. This arrangement was accepted by the British Commissioners, and the boundary was laid aside and the remaining questions of difference be proceeded with, some of which were so far advanced as to assure the probability of a settlement.

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rights of our citizens should be observed. Upon the withdrawal of the British agent from Pretoria the United States consul was authorized, upon the request of the British Government and with the assent of the South African and Orange Free State Governments, to exercise the customary good offices of a neutral for the care of the interests. In the discharge of this function it is happy to say that abundant opportunity has been afforded to show the impartiality of this Government toward both the combatants.

Lynching of Italians.
For the fourth time in the present decade question has arisen with the Government of Italy in regard to the lynching of Italian subjects. The latest of these deplorable events occurred at Tallulah, Louisiana, whereby five unfortunate Italian origin were taken from jail and hanged.

The authorities of the State and a representative of the Italian Embassy, having separately investigated the occurrence, arrived at discrepant results, particularly as to the alleged citizenship of the victims, and it not appearing that the State had been able to discover and punish the violators of the law, an independent investigation has been set on foot, through the agency of the Department of State, and is still in progress. The result of the investigation of the Government of Italy in a spirit of fairness and justice. A satisfactory solution will doubtless be reached.

The recurrence of these distressing manifestations of blind mob fury directed at dependents or natives of a foreign country suggests that the contingency has arisen conferred upon the Federal courts jurisdiction in this class of international cases where the ultimate responsibility of the Federal Government may be involved. The suggestion is not new. In his Annual Message of December 9, 1891, my predecessor, President Harrison, said:

"It would, I believe, be entirely competent and expedient to make offenses against the treaty rights of foreigners, committed in the United States cognizable in the Federal courts. This has not, however, been done, and the Federal officers and courts have no power in such cases to intervene either for the protection of a foreign citizen or for the punishment of his slayers. It seems to me to follow, in this state of the law, that the officers of the State charged with police and judicial powers, in such cases, must, in the consideration of international questions growing out of such incidents, be regarded in such sense as Federal agents as to make this Government answerable for their acts in cases where it would be answerable if the United States had used its constitutional power to define and punish crimes against treaty rights."

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give ample bonds to insure the completion of the work within a reasonable time.

Intimacy With Mexico.

The year has been marked by constant increase in the intimacy of our relations with Mexico and in the magnitude of mutually beneficial exchanges. This Government has omitted no opportunity to show its strong desire to develop and perpetuate the ties of cordiality now so long happily unbroken.

Following the termination on January 20, 1899, by Mexico of the convention of extradition of December 11, 1881, a new treaty more in accordance with the ascertained needs of both countries was signed at Mexico on the 22d of April last. Its operation this far has been effective and satisfactory. A recent case has served to test the application of its 14th Article, which provides that neither party shall be bound to deliver up its own citizens, but that the executive authority of each shall have the power to deliver them up if in its discretion it be deemed proper to do so.

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There has been allotted to the United States a considerable addition of space, which, while placing our country in the first rank among exhibitors, does not suffice to meet the increasingly urgent demand for the exhibition of our products. The Commissioner-General, therefore, directed toward a strictly representative display of all that most characteristically marks American achievement in the inventive arts, and most adequately shows the excellence of our natural productions.

In this age of keen rivalry among nations for mastery in commerce, the doctrine of evolution and the doctrine of the survival of the fittest must be as inexorable the operation as they are positive in the results they bring about. The place won in the struggle by an industrial people can only be held by unrelaxed endeavor and constant advance in achievement. The present extraordinary impetus in every line of American exportation and the astounding increase of the value of our share in the world's markets must not be attributed to accidental conditions.

The reasons are not far to seek. They lie deep in our national character and find expression year by year in every branch of handicraft, in every new device whereby the materials we so abundantly produce are subjected to new uses and made to yield the largest, most practical and most beneficial return. The American exhibit at Paris should, and I am confident will, be an open volume, whose lessons of skill-

fully directed endeavor, unflinching energy, and consummate performance may be read by all on every page, thus spreading abroad a clearer knowledge of the worth of our productions and the justice of our claim to an important place in the marts of the world. To accomplish this by judicious selection, by recognition of paramount factors, whatever walk of trade or manufacture, and by judiciously classifying and attractive installation is the task of our Commission.

The United States Government building is approaching completion, and no effort will be spared to make it worthy, in beauty of architectural plan and in completeness of display, to represent our nation. It has been suggested that a permanent building of appropriate and appropriate site, already given by the municipality, near the Exposition grounds, to serve in commemoration of the part taken by this country in this great enterprise, as an American National Institute, for our countrymen resorting to Paris for study.

mean of some found the relinquished territory held by us as a result of our military operations, under the direction of the Executive, such government and control therein as should conserve public order, respect the rights of the inhabitants, and be large disturbed by the instability and disorder which prevailed for the greater part of the preceding three decades, and build up that which should be a permanent and lasting basis for the future of the Republic. The 19th of April, 1899, the United States disclaimed any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction, or control over the island of Cuba, and asserted its determination when that was accomplished to leave the government and control of the island to the Cuban people. The pledge contained in this resolution is of the highest honorable obligation, and must be sacredly kept.

I believe that this strict adherence to the pledge is the only way in